

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 148192

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TO AMCONSUL MONTREAL

UNCLAS STATE 148192

FOR US REP ICAO

FOL REPEAT FOR YOUR INFO STATE 148192 SENT ACTION LONDON ROME
INFO LISBON MADRID PALERMO JUNE 24, 1975

QUOTE

UNCLAS STATE 148192

E.O. 11652:N/A

TAGS:TPHY:IT,UK

SUBJECT:SCIENTIFIC BALLOON LAUNCH FROM SICILY

REF: STATE A-3556

1. WE ARE SENDING SEPARATELY BY AIRGRAM MEMORANDUM OF
UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN US, UK AND ITALY CONCERNING SUBJECT
LAUNCH JULY OR AUGUST 1975. NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION
HAS SIGNED FOR US.

2. SINCE JUNIOR OFFICER SIGNED FOR NSF, SUGGEST APPRO-
PRIATE COUNTERPARTS SIGN FOR UK, ITALIAN RESEARCH COUN-
CILS.

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PAGE 02 STATE 148192

3. TEXT OF MOU FOLLOWS FOR INFORMATION AND COMMENT:

QUOTE: MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING (TITLE UNDERSCORED)

PARA. THIS IS A MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING, EFFECTIVE ON THE DATE DULY SIGNED BY (1) THE UNITED KINGDOM SCIENCE RESEARCH COUNCIL (HEREINAFTER REFERRED TO AS SRC), AND (2) THE ITALIAN CONSIGLIO NAZIONALE DELLE RICERCHE (HEREINAFTER REFERRED TO AS CNR), AND (3) THE NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA (HEREINAFTER REFERRED TO AS NSF), WHOSE CONTRACTOR IS THE UNIVERSITY

CORPORATION FOR ATMOSPHERIC RESEARCH (HEREINAFTER REFERRED TO AS UCAR), WHICH OPERATES THE NATIONAL SCIENTIFIC BALLOON FACILITY (HEREINAFTER REFERRED TO AS NSBF). AS SET FORTH IN THIS MEMORANDUM, NSBF WILL PROVIDE LAUNCHING AND RECOVERY ASSISTANCE FOR A SCIENTIFIC BALLOON FLIGHT TO BE LAUNCHED FROM TRAPANI-MILO, SICILY, AND TO BE RECOVERED IN THE U.S. DURING THE PERIOD 27 JULY 1975 TO 23 AUGUST 1975.

PARA I. FLIGHT PLANS (TITLE UNDERSCORED) PARA. THE FLIGHT WILL BE OF A BALLOON OF 20 MILLION CUBIC FEET CARRYING A PAYLOAD OF APPROXIMATELY 1800 KILOGRAMS. IT WILL BE LAUNCHED DURING THE PERIOD 27 JULY 1975 TO 23 AUGUST 1975 FROM TRAPANI-MILO, SICILY, WILL FLOAT WITH PREVAILING WINDS WESTWARD AT AN ALTITUDE OF ABOUT 140,000 FEET ACROSS SPAIN, PORTUGAL, THE ATLANTIC OCEAN AT ABOUT 37 DEGREES NORTH LATITUDE, AND THE SOUTHERN UNITED STATES, AND WILL BE REMOTELY COMMANDED TO DESCEND BY PARACHUTE AT A CONVENIENT AND SAFE LOCATION WITHIN THE U.S. IT IS ANTICIPATED THAT THE FLIGHT WILL BE CONTROLLED BY HF AND VHF TELECOMMAND SYSTEMS, AND POSITION INFORMATION ACCURATE WITHIN PLUS OR MINUS 5 MILES WILL BE OBTAINED THROUGH THE OMEGA OR TRANSIT NAVIGATION SYSTEMS AND WITHIN THE U.S. BY NORMAL TRACKING TECHNIQUES CUSTOMARILY USED BY NSBF. THE SCIENTIFIC PAYLOAD, BALLOONS AND GAS FOR THE FLIGHT WILL BE PROVIDED BY DR. PETER FOWLER, BRISTOL UNIVERSITY, BRISTOL, ENGLAND, AND WILL CONSIST OF EMULSION AND PLASTIC DETECTOR FOR HEAVY COSMIC RAYS.

PARA II. SPECIFIC UNDERTAKINGS ON THE PART OF NSF (ACTING THROUGH ITS CONTRACTOR, UCAR) (TITLE UNDERSCORED)
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PAGE 03 STATE 148192

PARA. NSF AGREES TO:

SUBPARA A. PROVIDE ALL NECESSARY OPERATIONAL SUPPORT FOR THE LAUNCH IN SICILY, INCLUDING FIVE ENGINEER/TECHNICIANS, VARIOUS PIECES OF EQUIPMENT, INCLUDING RIGGING HARDWARE, TEST ELECTRONICS, AND AIRBORNE COMMAND AND TELEMETRY PACKAGE, AND A LAUNCH SPOOL.

SUBPARA B. ASSUME COMMAND OF THE FLIGHT WHEN IT REACHES
U.S. TERRITORY.

SUBPARA C. EFFECT BALLOON SYSTEM DESCENT AND PAYLOAD
RECOVERY WITHIN THE U.S.

SUBPARA D. MAKE NECESSARY ARRANGEMENTS FOR AIR TRAFFIC AND
CUSTOMS CLEARANCE IN THE U.S.

PARA III. SPECIFIC UNDERTAKINGS ON THE PART OF THE CNR
(TITLE UNDERSCORED) PARA. CNR AGREES TO:

SUBPARA A. PROVIDE THE LAUNCH AREA AND NECESSARY FACILI-
TIES IN SICILY.

SUBPARA B. OBTAIN ALL NECESSARY AGREEMENTS AND CLEARANCES
IN NATIONS BORDERING THE MEDITERRANEAN SEA AND PORTUGAL.

SUBPARA C. ARRANGE FOR DUTY-FREE ENTRY AND EXIT INTO AND
OUT OF ITALY OF EQUIPMENT RELATED TO THIS PROGRAM.

PARA IV. SPECIFIC UNDERTAKINGS OF THE SRC (TITLE UNDER-
SCORED) PARA. SRC AGREES TO:

SUBPARA A. PROVIDE NECESSARY GROUND STATIONS AND DATA
RETRIEVAL SYSTEMS IN SICILY AND THE AZORES.

SUBPARA B. REIMBURSE THE NSF'S CONTRACTOR, UCAR, FOR ALL
EXPENSES INCURRED BY THE NSBF IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED
U.S. 15,000 DOLLARS INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO SALARIES,
TRAVEL, AND PER DIEM.

PARA V. DURATION OF MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING (TITLE
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PAGE 04 STATE 148192

UNDERSCORED) PARA. THIS MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING
SHALL BE IN EFFECT FROM THE DATE OF ITS EXECUTION THROUGH
30 JUNE 1976.

PARA VI. TITLE TO PROPERTY (TITLE UNDERSCORED) PARA.
TITLE TO ALL EQUIPMENT AND OTHER PERSONAL PROPERTY FUR-
NISHED BY NSF OR UCAR SHALL REMAIN VESTED IN THE GOVERN-
MENT OF THE UNITED STATES.

PARA VII. LIABILITY (TITLE UNDERSCORED) PARA. UCAR
SHALL OBTAIN INSURANCE TO COVER CLAIMS FOR DAMAGE TO
PROPERTY, OR DEATH OR INJURY TO PERSONS ARISING OUT OF THE
BALLOON FLIGHT UNDER THIS MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING IN
THE AMOUNT OF TWENTY MILLION U.S. DOLLARS (20,000,000
DOLLARS) AND CLAIMS NOT ARISING OUT OF THE FLIGHT IN THE

AMOUNT OF FIVE MILLION U.S. DOLLARS (5,000,000 DOLLARS).

FULL PARA. THE SRC AND THE CNR AGREE TO ASSUME ALL LIABILITY AND TO HOLD THE UNITED STATES, THE NSF, AND UCAR HARMLESS, WITH RESPECT TO ANY CLAIMS ARISING OUT OF ACTIVITIES UNDER THIS MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING NOT COVERED BY THE INSURANCE DESCRIBED ABOVE.

FULL PARA. THIS MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING MAY BE AMENDED AT ANY TIME UPON WRITTEN MUTUAL CONSENT OF NSF,

SRC, AND CNR. END QUOTE.

4. MOU TO BE SIGNED BY NSF, SRC, AND CNR. KISSINGER

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